In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11, 25, 28 and 34-36 as follows, and cancel claims 12-24, 26, 27 and 37-47.

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically providing enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without ~~the~~ intervention of information systems personnel, the method comprising the steps of:

      1)   receiving a request from ~~the~~ a user to establish ~~the~~ a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group;

      2)   configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel;

      ~~3)   providing a group identifier;~~

      <u>3</u>4)   allowing <u>other</u> users to join the group according to the group identifier;

      <u>4</u>5)   further configuring the network infrastructure to support the joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and

      <u>5</u>6)   dissolving the group based on predetermined rules.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the group of users is composed of one or more ~~than one~~ users.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network infrastructure includes a physical local area network.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring a network includes the step of establishing a virtual local area network on a physical local area network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring a network infrastructure includes the step of configuring switches that are IEEE802.1Q compliant.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of configuring switches includes a use of Q-tag.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step-of-providing-a-group identifier includes the-step-of-providing-a group name and password.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of allowing users to join the group according to the group identifier includes the step of allowing users to join the group according to a group name and password.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of further configuring the network infrastructure includes the step of configuring a the-switch port that the-a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group.

10. (Original) The method of claim1 wherein the step of dissolving the group includes revoking the group identifier.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of dissolving further includes the step of returning ports of switches supporting a VLAN associated with the dissolved group to a the-default state and removing all references to the VLAN associated with the dissolved group from the switches.

12 - 24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing the-computer instructions for executing in a computer of a the-method of-claim-1for automatically providing enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without intervention of information systems personnel, the method comprising the steps of:-

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1) receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group;

2) configuring a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel;

3) allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier;

4) further configuring the network infrastructure to support the joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and

5) dissolving the group based on predetermined rules.

26 - 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A server to provide enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without the-intervention of information systems personnel, the server comprising:

1) a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of usersfrom the user, and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier;

2) a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel;

3) a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; and

4) a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on the registration status.

29. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the VLAN tags are Q-tags of IEEE802.1Q .

30. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the state information of a network infrastructure is information on the switches that are IEEE802.1Q compliant.

31. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the module to construct VLAN tags comprises the SNMP module.

32. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the module further comprises a web based user interface.

33. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the group identifier includes a group name and password.

34. (Currently amended) The server of claim 28 <u>further comprising a switch commander for configuring a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel in response to</u> wherein the request includes the request for creating the group of users.

35. (Currently amended) The server of claim 28 wherein the <u>registration module further receives from the user a</u> request includes the request for showing information associated with the group of users.

36. (Currently amended) The server of claim 28 wherein the <u>registration module further receives from the user a</u> request includes the request for deleting the group of users.

37 - 47 (Cancelled)